

## Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday May 25, 2006

### In This Issue:

[Tower Safety](#)

[Vermillion Tower](#)

[Crossword](#)

[911 Committee](#)

[Product Highlights](#)

[Calendar](#)

### LINKS

[APCO](#)

[DTS](#)

[FCC](#)

[UCAN](#)

[UWIN](#)

## Tower Safety Training

By Doug Chandler



Jordan Aqueduct Site

Our newly appointed Safety Officer, Trevor Pollock, conducted tower climbing re-certification training this week. The training consisted of one day in the classroom followed by a day of practical training on the Jordan Aqueduct tower. In addition to knot tying and thorough equipment inspections, each technician must go through a tower rescue with a simulated unconscious victim. Even though it's only an exercise, one tech's life is quite literally in the hands of another. The inherent team-building opportunity is an added bonus.

Most climbing gear is only factory certified for three to five years, so part of the annual equipment inspection requires identification and replacement of this gear on an on-going basis. The safety officer records training dates and replacement cycles for each technician's gear.

According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, within the tower climbing industry:

*"...estimates suggest fatality rates of 49 to 468 deaths per 100,000 workers--nearly 10 to 100 times the average rate of 5 deaths per 100,000 workers across all industries."*

[\[http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/2001156.html\]](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/2001156.html)

The safety officer is also responsible to ensure compliance with areas such as:

Radio Frequency Safety [\[http://www.fcc.gov/oet/rfsafety/\]](http://www.fcc.gov/oet/rfsafety/)

Battery Storage and Handling [\[OSHA CFR1910.151\(a\)\]](#)

First Aid [\[OSHA CFR1910.151\(b\)\]](#)

Utah's Labor Commission has established the Utah Occupational Safety and Health agency. The [UOSH web site](#) is an excellent source of information for your agency's safety needs.



Tower Rescue

## **Vermillion Cliffs Gets a New Tower**

By Bill Sipes

Overlooking the Kanab Valley, Vermillion Cliffs is a strategically located communications facility which provides wireless communications for most of the residents of Kane County. It is also the primary communications site for public safety agencies in the region. The old tower can be seen in the left photo, just to the left of the one being erected. It's light 12" triangular structure was inadequate to the task of the loading already on it, much less the future communications needs of the site. Working closely with Kane County and the Bureau of Land Management, the new 100 foot tower project took most of a year to complete.



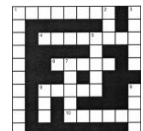
It was my privilege to be on Vermillion, watching the process of raising that tower. The experience, to say the least, was rather intriguing. The contractor even let me lend a hand. Now I can honestly say 'I helped build that tower'.

After the tower was up and the tools were gathered, we each climbed aboard our respective 4-wheeled mounts and headed down the mountain. That's when the whole process took on another dimension; getting that large truck, which was carrying that huge crane, down the hill. As one could easily speculate, the crane truck got stuck in the shifting sand (which the entire mountain is made of). The crane driver tried several things to free himself, to no avail. Luckily we had a CAT along with us. Thanks to the skill and experience of the CAT skinner, we were on our way again —though two hours later than planned.

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## **Technology Crossword**

So you think you know a thing or two about technology? Give this technology crossword a shot. You can play it through your web browser. Just click on the puzzle graphic to the right. Note the buttons along the bottom of the puzzle can give you help when (excuse me —*if*) you get stuck.



[Click me!](#)

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## **911 Committee Update**

By Doug Chandler



As established by the Utah State Legislature, Utah Code Section 53-10-601 directs the Utah 911 Committee to provide recommendations on technical, operational, and financial issues related to statewide Wireless E-911 issues. A 13 cent per month fee on wireless and land-based phones was established to create a fund that is overseen by the committee. The two main goals of the committee are to provide Enhanced-911 to every citizen of the state (number and location information are

displayed to the emergency call taker), and Wireless Phase Two compliance (determine a cell phone's location by using GPS or triangulation).

In the May committee meeting, we reviewed grant applications from Logan City/Cache County, and Weber Area Consolidated Dispatch Center. The committee's financial manager, Sam Saeva, reported that \$5.2 Million of the \$5.9 Million current balance has been spent or obligated.

Most of the PSAP's (Public Safety Answering Point) within Utah have submitted and received approval for their grant requests. To date, only \$885,704 has been paid out. This means agencies who have received grant approval, need to move forward with their 911 improvements.

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## **Product Highlights**

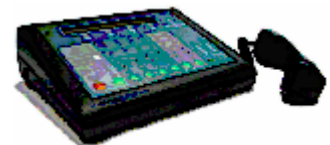
### **FREELINC Wireless Speaker/Mic**

In the last UCAN Executive Committee, Sgt. Jeff Winterton with the Wasatch County Sheriff's Office reported on the success of their agency's use of a new wireless speaker/microphone device, that uses a magnetic field with a 5' radius and 20 hours of talk time, to connect to a two-way radio on an officer's hip, or in the car. The product is the [FREELINC FreeMic 200](#).



### **JPS (Junior)**

Most public safety communications people are very familiar with the JPS/ACU-1000. It was used during the 2002 Olympics, and at many other events and drills where interoperability between two or more communications systems needs to occur. The principle is relatively simple. Attach radios from disparate communications systems to a single box that patches the receive of one radio to the transmit of another. A laptop computer controls the interactions. Still, deployment of the device can take some time —assuming you already have one on the scene. The traditional device takes up the equivalent of an entire pick-up tailgate. JPS is now introducing the new [ACU-M](#). Not much larger than a powerful desk phone, the ACU-M does not require a laptop or a lot of room. It can connect up to four radio and two phone channels. At a cost of under \$4,000, this device makes for rapid deployment, but not rapid depleting of funds.



## **Calendar**

### **UCAN Executive Committee**

Tuesday, June 20, 2006

2:00 pm

5360 South Ridge Village Drive (5885 West)

Salt Lake City, Utah

### **State 911 Committee**

Thursday, June 15, 2006

1:00 pm

Calvin Rampton Complex

UHP Large Conference Room

4501 S. 2700 W. Salt Lake City

### **UWIN Technology Steering Committee**

Thursday, July 20, 2006

10:00 am

Calvin Rampton Complex

UHP Large Conference Room

4501 S. 2700 W. Salt Lake City

Toll-free teleconference: 1-866-258-0959

Teleconference room #: \*1863421\* (must use asterisks)

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